

## FOREST BIOMASS MEETING NOTES

March 18, 2011

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Natural Resources Building, Room 172

### DRAFT AGENDA

1:00 – 1:10 p.m.	<b>Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review</b> Bridget Moran, DNR
1:10 – 1:30	<b>Discussion of charter and Open Public Meetings Act</b> Bridget Moran, DNR
1:30 – 1:45 p.m.	<b>Discussion of relationship to the UW Forest Biomass Supply Assessment</b> Craig Partridge, DNR
1:45 – 2:10 p.m.	<b>Discussion of field visits – objectives, locations, timing, etc.</b> Bridget Moran, DNR
2:10 – 2:30 p.m.	<b>Discussion of process for pooling and vetting scientific information</b> Group
2:30 – 2:45 p.m.	<b>Discussion of potential categories for best practices, relationship to existing forest practices rules</b> Group
2:45 – 3:00 p.m.	<b>Next Meeting/topics</b> Bridget Moran, DNR

#### Attendees:

Peter Heide – WFPA (phone)  
Miguel-Perez Gibson – Forest & Fish  
Conservation Caucus  
Chris Mendoza – F&F Cons. Caucus  
Marty Acker - NOAA Fisheries  
Steve Landino - NOAA Fisheries  
Stephen Bernath – Ecology  
Nancy Sturhan – NWIFC  
Peter Goldman – WFLC  
Kara Whittaker – WFLC  
Ed Tolan – Nippon Paper

Ev Muehlethaler – Pt. Townsend Paper Co.  
George Cave – Pt. Townsend Paper Co.  
Bill Hermann – Hermann Bros. Logging  
Dick Miller - WFFA

#### DNR Staff:

Bridget Moran – Deputy Supervisor  
Craig Partridge – Policy Director  
Rachel Jamison – Energy and Climate  
Policy Specialist (phone)  
Darin Cramer – Forest Practices Division  
Manager

### **Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review**

Bridget Moran opened the meeting with a round of introductions. A question was posed to DNR as to who was speaking for which portion of DNR. Bridget Moran and Darin Cramer represent the regulatory side of DNR. Craig Partridge and Rachel Jamison represent DNR's policy office, which advises and supports all of DNR's programs. DNR did not have a proprietary land manager at the meeting; attendees requested that we invite someone with a DNR proprietary role to future meetings.

### **Discussion of charter and Open Public Meetings**

The group was notified that since the workgroup is looking at a topic of interest to the Forest Practices Board (Board) that may inform future actions by the Board, there may be a need for a briefing on the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA). If the OPMA was triggered, the group asked for a copy of the OPMA rules and a further discussion regarding the implication of the rules.

In subsequent internal conversations we have determined, that since the meetings occur under the Commissioner's leadership and are not formally organized or requested by the FPB (i.e., the Board has not established the group), and the folks coming to the "dialog" meetings have no set membership list, the meetings are more similar to an *ad hoc* group of interested people that is not subject to the OPMA. While the OPMA does not directly apply to the group's activities, the Department will endeavor to post meeting times and locations on the Forest Practices Board's Internet page and members of the public are welcome to attend.

A draft charter was developed by DNR staff for the workgroup and distributed prior to the meeting. There was a brief discussion on the charter and a request for edits to be submitted via email.

### **Discussion of relationship to the UW Forest Biomass Supply Assessment**

Craig provided a review of what the UW Forest Biomass Supply Assessment was going to provide. Attached is a document that describes the study, (*see attached diagram*). The group was reminded that as part of the UW study, there were requirements for public engagement. The first meeting opportunity was March 22, 2011 (one week after the biomass stakeholder meeting). This meeting provided participants with an overview of the data that had been collected to date on harvest activities and gross volumes of biomass. It allowed participants opportunities to ask questions and dig into questions related to the study methodology. Information on the supply study (including monthly reports from the contractors) can be found on the DNR website: [http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/OtherConservationInformation/Pages/cc\\_forest\\_biomass\\_assessment.aspx](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/OtherConservationInformation/Pages/cc_forest_biomass_assessment.aspx)

As a follow-up to the UW study discussion and related to the aviation fuel bill, the conservation caucus commented that they believed that both Boeing and the pulp and paper industry want a sustainable product. There was additional discussion as to whether that meant there was a need for additional regulation or not, and if there was, what that meant. The federal services

commented that they thought that unregulated biomass could be a concern since there is not a lot of information on the ecological impacts to fish habitat from biomass harvesting. There was a stated assumption, which turned into a question: will biomass harvest supply be limited to slash? Feds indicated if so, then good resource protection could be built on that premise.

DNR committed to working with the group on comparing existing Forest Practice Rules with biomass BMP's currently being used in different parts of the country. This process can be an opportunity to illuminate any rule changes that may be needed to ensure environmental protection before/during/after biomass harvest.

### **Discussion of field visits – objectives, locations, timing, etc.**

DNR suggested that the group plan on visiting locations where biomass harvests have been conducted. There was agreement that field visits could provide a better opportunity for learning about the field conditions related to biomass harvest. Bill Herman offered the group an opportunity to view a site that was harvested for biomass. The group appreciated and accepted, and asked Bill to include in the field visit a discussion about what the constraints on the operation were. Dick Miller also suggested visiting the Fall River, USDA study site which is near Doty, WA. The group agreed. The USDA Fall River study was provided to the group via email on 3/17/11.

Additional field visit issues discussed included a request that the group see both “good” and “bad” biomass harvest sites, and possibly both an east-side and a west-side site visit, as well as visiting when a biomass harvest was occurring.

There was also a request that DNR provide photo aids that depict what different tons/acre of forest residuals looks like. DNR likely has this information available from the fire program and will seek to obtain it and share with the group.

### **Discussion of process for pooling and vetting scientific information**

There was a general discussion about the availability of data related to biomass harvest.

### **Discussion of potential categories for best practices, relationship to existing forest practices rules**

The group ran out of time prior to discussing this topic in detail, however, DNR committed to bringing forward a process that compares forest practices rules with proposed/adopted best management practices as outlined in the Forest Guild's April 2010 document distributed to the group via email on 3/17/11..

### **Follow up items:**

1. Share literature questions for the UW study to the group.
2. Finalize charter (one set of comments submitted)
3. Schedule field visits
4. Continue discussion on pooling/vetting scientific information